Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of preventing or treating West Nile virus in a human comprising administering to the human an effective amount of ribavirin.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ribavirin is administered orally.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount from about 300 mg to about 3600mg/day.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of 1200mg as an initial dose, then 600mg every 6 hours.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of preventing or treating ~~West Nile virus in~~ an animal suffering from a meningitis, encephalitis, or meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection ~~therefrom~~ comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the animal is a human.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered parenterally to the human.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method of treating or preventing West Nile virus in an animal suffering therefrom comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of ribavirin and interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the animal is a human.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein the ribavirin is administered orally and the interferon alpha-2b is administered parenterally to the human.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ribavirin is administered to the human in an amount from about 300 mg to about 3600mg/day and the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the ribavirin is administered to the human in an amount of 1200mg as an initial dose, then 600mg every 6 hours.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered to the human in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of preventing or treating an animal with an infection, comprising:

administering to the animal an effective amount of ribavirin, interferon alpha-2b or combinations thereof, wherein the infection causes an encephalitis selected from the group consisting of St. Louis, Japanese, and Murray Valley.

Claim 17 (new): A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 18 (new): A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human.

Claim 19 (new): A method of treating a human suffering from a meningitis, encephalitis, or meningo-encephalitis caused by a West Nile virus infection comprising administering to the human an effective amount of interferon alpha-2b.

Claim 20 (new): A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered parenterally to the human.

Claim 21 (new): A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount from about 1.5 million units to about 10 million units/day.

Claim 22 (new): A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered in an amount of 3 million units as an initial dose, then 3 million units every 12 to 24 hours.

Claim 23 (new): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered subcutaneously to the human.

Claim 24 (new): A method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the interferon alpha-2b is administered intravenously to the human.